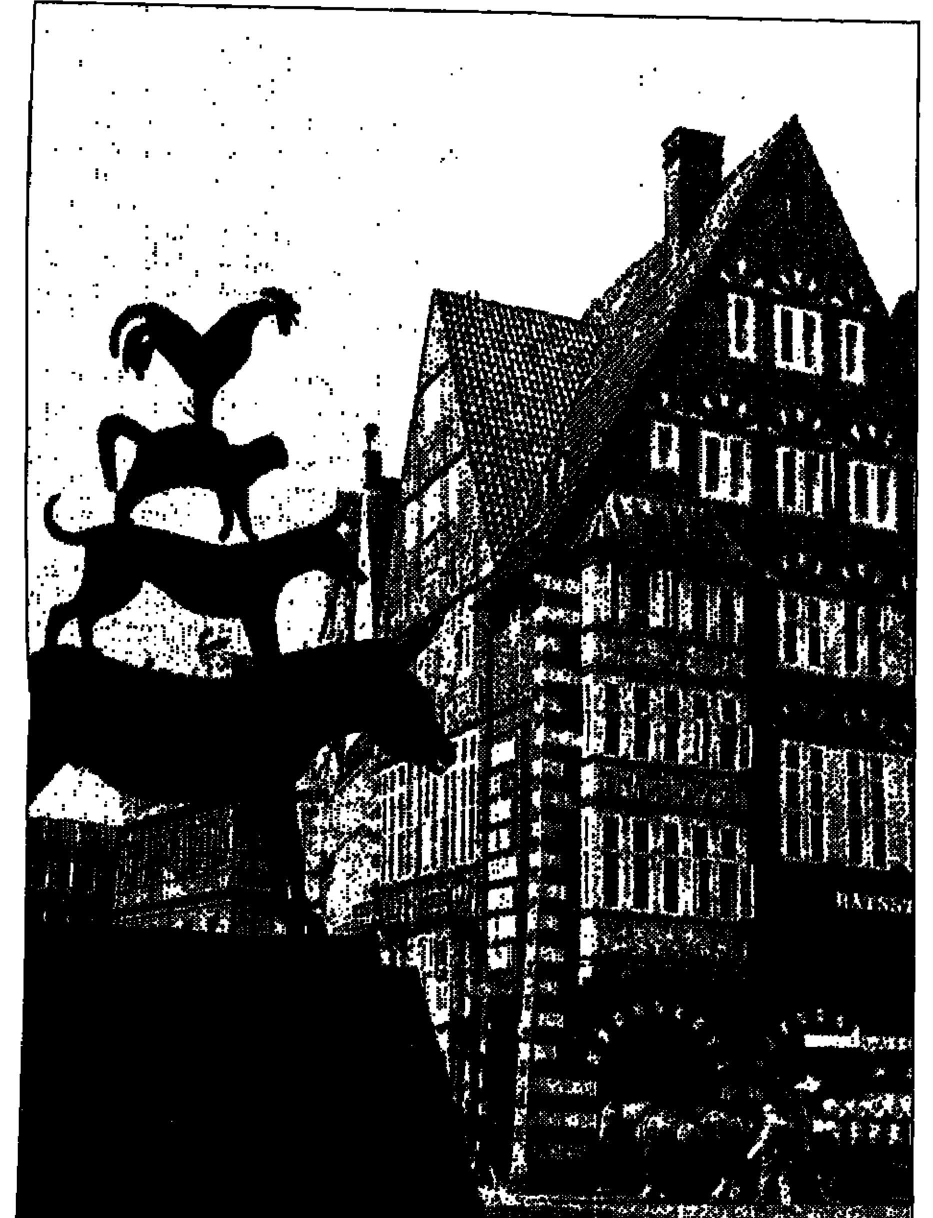












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Chancellor Kohl visits South America

Nordwest Zeitung

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl clearly outlined, at his first meeting with Argentinian leader Raul Alfonsin and in a speech to both houses of Congress, the two main reasons for his visit to Buenos Aires.

First there was the demonstrative character of his visit to a country that had returned to constitutional government after a major, moral change.

Second, and immediately following the first as the Bonn Chancellor saw it, came the readiness of European democracies to lend support, on a basis of partnership, to democracies and bids to establish democracy in Latin America.

The cooperation agreement between Argentina and the European Community he proposed may be a suitable means of providing this support via expansion of economic ties.

But Herr Kohl was empty-handed when it came to short-term solutions to Argentina's main problem. Good advice is not enough to help pay off debts totalling $45bn.

Mexico, the Chancellor's next port of call in Latin America, is $90bn in debt, but is viewed much more kindly by the IMF, having complied to the letter with all its rescheduling requirements.

The Chancellor welcomed Argentina's contribution toward easing debt crisis tension in the form of $350m in interest payments made at the end of June.

Interest payments and debt rescheduling gain time, but they are no substitute for the development strategies needed.

For Herr Kohl a reduction in interest rates is of crucial importance, especially for the countries of Latin America.

In the Bonn Chancellor Buenos Aires has an ally who is constantly reminding the White House in particular of the need to cut interest rates.

He sees lower interest rates, a better investment climate, opening of markets and continuation of IMF programmes as part of a package of long-term development strategies.

Politically, Bonn backs Latin American bids for genuine non-alignment, especially as it cannot be in Washington's interest for South America to be involved in the East-West clash.

This support costs Bonn little heartache inasmuch as Argentina in particular has always seen itself as part of the West and not as a wanderer between East and West.

What Herr Kohl had to say did not fail to impress Buenos Aires. His commitment to a lasting settlement on the Falklands was also noted attentively.

While not pushing his services as an intermediary, he did pave the way, in Britain's interest too, for an atmosphere of further detente.

Bodo Schulte
(Nordwest Zeitung, 6 July 1984)

IN THIS ISSUE



Argentine President Raul Alfonsin (right) welcomes Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Buenos Aires (Photo: AP)



Carrington in Bonn

Britain's Lord Carrington (left) made Bonn his first port of call as Nato secretary-general. He is welcomed by another new man at his job, the German head of state Richard von Weizsäcker. See page 2. (Photo: dpa)

Stockholm talks mark time on confidence-building

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Bids to agree on at least a blueprint for further talks at the Stockholm conference on confidence-building and disarmament in Europe have failed.

An informal proposal to set up two working groups was stymied by the Eastern European countries at the end of the second conference session.

That leaves the Stockholm conference, when it resumes business in September after the summer recess, at as much of a loss as ever on how to get down to work.

At the outset of the second round of talks in May the Soviet Union followed the Nato, neutral and non-aligned countries in tabling a catalogue of confidence- and security-building measures it favoured.

While chief delegates read out prepared statements to the plenary session, efforts continued behind the scenes to arrive at a basis for the negotiations proper.

On behalf of the Nato countries Norway began by proposing to the conference the establishment of a working group to decide what issues were to be discussed at Stockholm.

The East rejected this idea, fearing that topics important to the Warsaw Pact states might be ruled out from the start.

Then Finland made headway with a proposal to set up a contact group to make progress easier by negotiating the further pattern of talks.

As a result Sweden tabled an unofficial motion to set up two working groups, one to deal with specific military aspects of confidence-building, such as manoeuvre notification and observation and annual catalogues of forthcoming military exercises.

The other was to deal with any other business, especially political issues favoured by the Soviet Union and its allies such as a declaration renouncing the use of force.

The Western countries first took a

Continued on page 2

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Carrington in Bonn emphasises transatlantic relationship as key to Western security

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Lord Carrington, the new Nato secretary-general, made Bonn his first port of call on his inaugural tour of the North Atlantic pact.

His prompt visit to the Rhine shows he intends to stay true to political views he voiced in public just before or immediately after taking office.

The two most important ones deal with East-West relations and the internal state of the Western alliance, especially relations between the United States and its allies in Western Europe.

On both counts Bonn is a first-rate venue at which to take reliable soundings. As part of a divided nation the government and public opinion in the Federal Republic, and the the GDR, are more directly affected than others by the ups and downs in East-West ties.

Besides, Bonn's loyalty to Nato is more crucial to the functioning of the alliance than that of any other country in Western Europe.

The real weakness of the Atlantic alliance is not one of economic or military inadequacy, Lord Carrington said two years ago. It was the lack of a joint strategy for dealing with the Soviet Union.

This finding is still valid. Moscow and Washington have manoeuvred themselves into blind alleys and neither has yet found a way out.

Even if the superpowers resume talks this autumn on, say, arms in space as announced, an end to the freeze in East-West relations would by no means sure.

Regardless of public statements there are no grounds for assuming that political leaders in Washington and Moscow are likely to change their minds about each other in the near future.

Moscow still seems to be speculating on differences in interests between Western Europe and United States and accordingly refuses to resume talks on medium-range and intercontinental missiles.

One of President Reagan's most influential advisers, Richard Perle, told the Friedrich Ebert Foundation's Euro-American conference a stable peace by means of deterrence and defence was in both America's interest and Western Europe's.

But the Nato concept still in force is a combination of defence and *detente*.

Not even as shrewd and experienced a diplomat as Lord Carrington will find it all easy to persuade Washington to revert to this strategy of a joint Ostpolitik.

Difficulties that arise will be partly due to Washington's growing impatience with its Nato allies.

Lord Carrington rightly remarked on taking over at Nato that Western Europe's contribution toward the pact was underestimated in the United States. But his desire to remedy this state of affairs will not be easy to fulfill.

US impatience with Western Europe is on the increase. Senator Nunn's bid to reduce US troop strength in Europe by 90,000 from 1987 may have been rejected, but it was so narrowly rejected that the last word has clearly not been said on the subject.

The foremost cause of this development is Western Europe's inability to convert its economic and military strength into political clout and effective influence on world affairs.

The somewhat disappointing outcome of the mid-June elections to the European Parliament holds forth scant prospect of any improvement in this state of affairs in the near future.

As a result, US opinion is increasingly coming to feel confirmed in its suspicions that America's allies in Western Europe are weaklings.

In the wake of all manner of European flops only two countries, France and Germany, have so far succeeded in bringing about a change.

France is Washington's oldest ally. To be linked with Paris is viewed as a point in one's favour in the US capital.

Close links between French and German security and defence policy could well wield a considerable influence for the better on how Washington views Western Europe.

It is still hard to say whether France would be prepared to relinquish national independence in favour of closer partnership with Bonn.

But Paris will realise that France must play a leading role in strengthening the West if, for instance, it is to be taken seriously as an opposite number in Moscow.

So Lord Carrington can do Nato a great service by discreetly but energetically encouraging the three-cornered relationship between Paris, Washington and Bonn.

If he succeeds, even Mrs Thatcher might feel more cordially disposed toward Europe. No-one likes to be on the outside looking in.

Walther Stützle

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 8 July 1984)

Bonn backs GDR loan

The second Bonn-backed loan to the GDR by West German banks will total nearly DM1bn, and that nowhere near exhausts East Germany's foreign exchange needs.

The GDR's financial commitments in *the East Bloc are on the increase*, with everyone, including the Soviet Union, short of cash and keen to raise loans to tide themselves over.

This credit requirement has always been to the benefit of the treaty policy of creating a network of reciprocal links to promote detente and good-neighbourly relations. It still is.

So it is hardly surprising that in spite of the general deterioration in East-West relations intra-German negotiations have made amazingly swift headway even in psychologically difficult sectors.

Both the DM1bn loan and the various easements demanded by Bonn and envisaged by East Berlin have paved the way for GDR leader Erich Honecker's visit to the Federal Republic this autumn.

The two need not necessarily be seen as interlinked. What matters is that neither side makes intolerable demands on the other.

They must level-headedly aim at progress in Deutschlandpolitik that will be lent added outward emphasis by Herr Honecker's visit to Bonn.

There may still be setbacks. There can be no ruling out further moves such as the East Germans who have squatted in Bonn's East Berlin mission in a bid to be allowed to settle in the West.

Agreement has been reached on terms for dealing with the latest squatters, which shows that both sides are determined not to be distracted from their policies by such developments.

If the worst comes to the worst, hard cash will always help.

It may not be the only common denominator of Deutschlandpolitik, and is arguably not even the most important one, but the GDR's credit requirement remains a constant factor in assessing its interests.

Achim Melchers

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 7 July 1984)

Franco-German ties crucial, says Schmidt

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher feels ex-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's proposals on closer Franco-German defence collaboration lend support to Bonn government policies.

He said in a radio interview that consultations between the French and German Foreign and Defence Ministers showed a desire for the closest cooperation in this sector and were developing to a most encouraging degree.

Herr Genscher also advocated incorporating talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on space weapons in as wide a framework as possible.

Franco-German defence cooperation was aimed at no-one in either the EEC or Nato. It was merely intended, as envisaged by Herr Schmidt, to establish a crystallisation point within the alliance.

By strengthening the West's conventional capacity it could also help to limit to the lowest level possible the need to use nuclear weapons. But this was not to be had free of charge.

Helmut Schmidt outlined to the Bonn Bundestag in the last week before its summer recess a number of proposals by which France was to unilaterally extend its nuclear shield to protect the Federal Republic of Germany.

In three to five years the two countries were also to increase their combined mobilisation capacity to 30 divisions and provide corresponding conventional equipment.

The Federal Republic was to dispense with the dual nuclear role of certain field weapons and aircraft and to concentrate on joint financing of conventional arms development.

In this way the nuclear threshold was to be raised, making it possible to reduce US troop strength in Europe.

Herr Genscher stressed that France must first decide what was needed to protect its own territory. A French nuclear guarantee was no substitute for the US guarantee to Western Europe, as the French government was well aware.

A higher French contribution toward conventional defence would increase the credibility of the West's conventional defences as a whole, which was indispensable for effective deterrence.

The Federal government expected all Western countries to play their part in ensuring deterrent credibility.

Talks between America and Russia on arms in space were of fundamental importance for European security interests, he said, and the US government had offered to hold talks without strings. Wide-ranging talks were, indeed, already under way.

President Reagan had conferred with Soviet ambassador Dobrynin, Secretary of State Shultz had held many talks, and there were an extensive number of other contacts.

Europe too was doing all it could to encourage them.

Herr Genscher referred to the visit to Bonn by Foreign Minister Chnoupek of Czechoslovakia and to the encouraging progress in intra-German ties.

In this connection he stressed Bonn's interest in top-level talks such as had been held with Bulgaria and Hungary.

What mattered was for the West as a whole to realise that East-West ties must deal with the widest possible range of issues and not just with a specific category of missiles.

Alois Mertes, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, voiced similar views. He too told journalists Herr Schmidt's proposals were a step in the right direction.

He stressed at the same tine that relations with the Soviet Union must be governed by as much "cooperative security" as possible, from the red phone linking the White House and the Kremlin to confidence-building measures as part of the European security and disarmament conference in Stockholm.

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 4 July 1984)

Stockholm

Continued from page 1

sceptical view of this proposal but eventually were willing to accept it as a basis for further work.

But the East Bloc's *nyet* came on the last but one day of the session, raising issues Western delegates said it would have taken several weeks to deal with.

The contact group idea was doomed to failure and Stockholm conference delegations will need to sound out possible solutions to the impasse during the recess.

The outlook for the third session is viewed pessimistically by conference observers. Western delegations feel greater flexibility on Moscow's part cannot be hoped for until after the US Presidential elections.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 6 July 1984)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

End-of-term report: could try harder

Hannoversche Allgemeine

In a spate of activity before the summer recess the Bonn Cabinet spent an all-night session laying down financial guidelines for 1985 and the years ahead. Then Chancellor Helmut Kohl flew off to Argentina and Mexico. Seen from the outside all seemed in order.

But what about the end-of-term report? The Bonn government's was none too impressive, with a fair number of assignments not completed. Its budget decisions were an imposing facade but behind it there were yawning gaps.

Decisions on tax incentives to buy pollution-controlled cars, better terms for families with children wanting to build a home and child-rearing counting toward women's pension rights were all postponed.

So was compensation to the Federal states for losses as a result of lower tax revenue.

The Cabinet remains true to the style that the Chancellor regards as the art of government. Anything controversial is set aside until it solves itself.

Problems are to be solved by negotiations with the Federal states. The Federal government declines to present guidelines for the solution of fundamental political questions.

The Federal states have gained in importance because of the weakness of central government. It remains to be seen if this is for the general good.

The consequences for environmental pollution are serious. The Federal government claimed that one of its most important tasks was to introduce improved environmental pollution prevention measures.

After measures to reduce static emission from power station chimneys there are plans to limit the pollution from car exhausts.

Trucks are very much responsible for polluting the air, but the government has ruled that from 1986 only private cars equipped not to pollute the air may use West German roads.

The government appears as a paper tiger to the European Community, industry and the population at large.

Bonn has not stayed the course with the European Community. The central issue at the last summit conference in Fontainebleau was millions for Britain and West German agriculture.

Environmental protection was pushed to the side lines. The Chancellor did not have the guts to go it alone. There were chances.

Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann fought to the last ditch in the conflict about the purity of German beer to maintain national privilege.

There are good arguments for amending West German vehicle registration provisions in favour of pollution-controlled cars fitted out with catalytic converters and running on unleaded petrol.

They do not favour national industry but ensure competitive equality for all so long as restrictions are observed, and they will impose no extra burden on government funds.

The car market will be stimulated by new models and manufacturers will have to modernise their plant.

Japan has enforced anti-pollution regulations for ten years, and despite this the Japanese car industry has achieved an outstanding position in world markets.

If West Germany had pressed ahead with lead-free petrol decisions the countries favoured by West German tourists, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, France and Spain, would have been obliged to provide unleaded petrol.

The expectations of getting something done now depend on tax incentives for car buyers. Only when this is resolved will the majority of motorists go for cars that do not pollute the environment, and only when many drive with lead-free petrol will lead-free petrol be worthwhile.

The proposals made by the government for road tax concessions for cars will, over the years, cover the additional cost for cars that do not pollute the environment.

But the tax allowance is not enough to be an incentive. Road tax is of little consequence to a car buyer as compared to petrol and insurance costs.

Interior Minister Zimmermann saw the risks in his plans and has proposed as a consequence additional price advantages. These will not get very far, however.

For the government subsidies to agricultural production, steel, shipping and coal are permissible, but cars are a different matter.

The arguments will be fed by financial considerations. If the legislation came into effect and if the two million new car buyers a year received a grant of DM1,000 the Finance Ministry would have to find two billion deutschemarks annually.

There is not much left for environmental protection after reduced tax collections, aid to agriculture and child allowances for mothers.

The Federal government now hopes the states will pick up the pieces of environmental protection. The hope is not entirely without foundation, for the Bundesrat (Upper House of the Bonn Parliament) has demanded workable measures from Interior Minister Zimmermann for the dying forests.

And the Federal states' road tax is an important lever in their hands to make owners of cars that pollute the environment pay.

Wolfgang Mauersberg

(Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung, 5 July 1984)

Budget borrowing down but subsidies still flourish

Bonn seems to have come something of a cropper in financial matters in this parliament's period of office. It may be mid-term next year but the present Bonn government was elected little more than a year ago.

The room for manouevre in finance policy is exhausted by the three budget drafts since the change of government, two decisive economy packages and tax relief for both the economy and taxpayers.

Has the CDU/CSU-FDP government kept to its election promises and the financial policy agreements reached by the Coalition?

The Coalition's success in putting the national finances on a solid basis cannot be disputed. It will be possible to halve the public borrowing requirement when calculated generously.

There were, it is true, signs that social benefit payments would increase at the commencement of the re-organisation programme, but then the government will be helped by record tax revenues up to the end of the legislative period and windfall profits for the Bundesbank.

The fear, held also by Social Democrat finance ministers, of a dynamic upswing in outgoings and the state borrowing requirement subject to interest payments has been assuaged.

The determination of the government to cut back finances cannot alter the fact that in 1986 the national debt will again increase and in the years following will only fall back slightly, less than has been planned so far.

The success of cutting back the public borrowing requirement has succeeded but Coalition undertakings to cut back on subsidies have not been met.

Parallel to tax relief for industry subsidies were to be dismantled, according to the Coalition agreement.

More precisely the possibilities for citizens to participate in tax loss companies in the future to avoid paying totally or in part tax liability.

This remains an empty promise for the Coalition has capitulated before party and group interests.

Finance Minister Stoltenberg has in the end stuck vaguely by the legislation doing away with subsidies that were put into force by his predecessors. But he has no support.

When he talked of additional billions for agriculture, state aid that is difficult to defend from an economic, social or financial point of view, the government's subsidy policy had completely turned about, a turnround in the wrong direction.

The chance was also lost of simplifying the tax system, also included in the Coalition agreement. The jungle of paragraphs, so much complained about, is to remain, in fact the jungle is to become more impenetrable.

A case in point is the new regulations for owner-occupier home taxation. The old legislation is to remain in force until the end of the century, with just new paragraphs affixed to it that are to come into effect as from 1987.

Instead of doing away with road tax this is to be refined with regard to cars that pollute the environment.

The next increase in child allowance can be charged against income tax. This will affect people in different ways in different wage groups.

Workers' accumulation of wealth, marked up for reform in the election campaign, is in the first stages of becoming law, but the tax aspect is so complicated only now have the necessary regulations been worked out to include the legislation in the tax system.

Granted the budget has had top priority for Stoltenberg and the Coalition before all other financial policies, but as can be seen from the 1985 budget and the financial plans based on it, aims have been achieved earlier than most expected they would be.

But cutbacks in state finances were to be the precondition for a policy that would stimulate economic growth and *improve the unemployment position*.

In its application this policy has got bogged down. The first tax packet after the change of government had a watering can effect rather than a determined endeavour to improve investment.

Despite the relief in social benefits paid by industry investment up to 1988 is at a record low.

Above all the government declined to realign the tax system so that investment was promoted at the cost of subsidies.

Yet several consumer taxes that have remained unchanged for a long time could easily be increased.

The budgetary success does not imply that the Coalition has also achieved its aims as regards the economy and employment.

Werner Gössling

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 5 July 1984)

Lambsdorff in dock, Strauss in the wings

For the first time a former federal minister is to appear before a court for alleged offences committed while in office.

The accusations are serious and in view of the personality of the accused, Count Otto Lambsdorff, it is difficult to believe that there is proof.

The judges have shown their independence and at the same time considerable fortitude in taking on the responsibility. Two things are at stake — the honour of a man of integrity and the authority of justice.

Lambsdorff's forced resignation means both strengths and weaknesses for the government.

Despite all attempts not to make prejudgments, Lambsdorff's reputation has been weakened. The Chancellor felt bound to consider Lambsdorff's resignation when it came to court proceedings.

Moreover Lambsdorff had drawn himself and the government into the current labour dispute with his unusually uncontrolled comments that have made the situation even more volatile, when, as an economic affairs expert he should have called for moderation and pointed out that maintaining a favourable social climate was an important economic factor.

Without Lambsdorff the government will find it easier to negotiate reconciliation with the Trades Union Federation.

On the other hand the Kohl/Genscher cabinet loses a competent and internationally known expert.

There is an abrupt end to the unbroken series of outstanding economic affairs ministers.

The FDP's demand to name Lambsdorff's successor is not, as in the past, based on competence. This can only cause anxiety in view of the imponderables in the worldwide economic scene.

The CSU was able to find understanding in the crisis for the Party tried to dissuade the Chancellor from coming to a hasty decision.

It cannot be denied that Franz Josef Strauss is a man of calibre in economic and financial matters.

But Genscher was not prepared to abandon "the classical FDP portfolio" of the Economic Affairs Ministry after he had already sacrifised the Interior Ministry in the political change from the SPD to the CDU coalition.

The Chancellor could not have been interested in having a slanging match with the FDP, which is already badly down. That might have caused a crisis in the coal- ition.

A cabinet reshuffle has only been delayed. Strauss waits — once more.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 28 June 1984)

■ PEOPLE

Sympathy for Strauss sweeps Bavaria

DIE ZEIT

The spontaneous, theatrical and impressive way in which Bavarians shared Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss's grief over his wife's death in a car crash took northerners by surprise.

Eighty mountain infantrymen from 38 units were on guard mounting in the Liebfrauendom as Archbishop Wetter celebrated a requiem mass that was screened on Channel Three of Bavarian TV like a state funeral.

Outside the cathedral thousands for whom there was no room inside stood in waiting. Some had come by coach from all over Bavaria to pay their respects to the bereaved family.

By no means all the funeral guests appreciated how genuine the grief was. Chancellor Kohl, for instance, was all smiles when he saw the crowds outside the cathedral.

He was clearly keen to put the opportunity to good use and get out there hand-pumping. Bavarians thought that was in very poor taste, as commentaries noted in no uncertain terms.

Helmut Kohl is not very popular at present in Bavaria in any case, but what was particularly held against him was that he had failed to appreciate the special nature of the situation.

The mourning was not just for a politician's wife; it was for the Prime Minister's wife as a virtual sovereign.

Constitutionally, the Prime Minister's wife may have no such role to play in Bavaria, but traditionally she does, and many Bavarians still feel beholden to tradition.

Since his wife's death Herr Strauss has been borne aloft on a wave of sympathy and respect in Bavaria. His supporters are deeply shaken and almost anxiously concerned for his welfare.

He is well-nigh beseeched not to lose hope and seriously advised to plunge into politics as an elixir of life.

His party, the Christian Social Union, set him a good example by venting its spleen and voicing dissatisfaction with the mess in Bonn.

It was triggered by the appointment and swearing-in of Free Democrat Martin Bangemann to succeed Count Lambsdorff as Economic Affairs Minister. The CSU took a dim view of both the quality of the candidate and the way in which he was appointed.

CSU MPs in the Bonn Bundestag sullenly accepted Bangemann's appointment but were outraged at the indecent haste shown by Chancellor Kohl in choosing a successor to Count Lambsdorff.

They were so incensed that CSU chief whip Theo Waigel called a special session of CSU MPs to smooth ruffled feelings.

Asked what the logic behind this response was, one CSU man said:

"A Chancellor who constantly prides himself on having trodden on the Bavarian lion's tail and admits to having done so with pleasure is not a man to be believed.

"He can certainly no longer be credited with not having planned to play a dirty trick on us in connection with the Bangemann business."

It could well be difficult to envisage in Bonn what is going on in Munich. Bavaria is mobilising, and not just for the kind of war dance of which the CSU is so fond.

This time it is a fight for political survival, if not its own (the CSU can still be sure of a majority in Bavaria). The CDU/CSU's lead in the country as a whole is felt to be at stake.

In CSU eyes Chancellor Kohl is behaving like a sweepstake winner who is busy squandering the first prize instead of investing it with a view to winning the 1987 elections.

That is the crucial point as Gerold Tandler sees it. He is CSU leader in the Bavarian state assembly and one of Herr Strauss's closest political associates.

Brushing everything else aside, he says only one question matters. It is how to ensure the best showing in the next general election.

We hope the Free Democrats manage to get back on their feet, he adds, but what if they don't?

As pragmatists, CSU politicians are working on the assumption that FDP leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher's decline has yet to reach its nadir.

"What inner justification is there," asks one CSU man, "for a Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor who is both hard-hit and in a suicidal mood?"

In Munich there are visions of Herr Genscher being sent to Brussels to succeed M. Thorn of Luxembourg as president of the EEC Commission.

"I shan't be competing with Genscher for the Brussels job," Herr Strauss caustically commented.

The list of sins Bonn is accused by Munich of committing is long, beginning in 1982 "with the fundamental error of not banking on an absolute majority for the CDU/CSU."

It ends with the Wörner-Kiessling affair and the amnesty plan for party-political donations.

"That," says one CSU man, "was the last time we agreed to decisions we felt were wrong but consented to for the sake of peace and quiet."

The Chancellor's amnesty plan for donations to party funds that may have been improper and tax evasion was tempting, the CSU admit, but they said it would be impossible to explain it to voters. And they were proved absolutely right again.

The CSU is pleased to change its tune whenever it suits, but always makes sure it has enough arguments to put forward for doing so.

The final yardstick of its activities is a political cost-benefit equation that shows no consideration whatever even for political friends.

Assessments of Bonn Cabinet Ministers are a case in point. Only two are mentioned with respect: CDU Finance Minister Stoltenberg, "even though we are not always of his opinion," and CSU Interior Minister Zimmermann, who "clearly indicates what he wants and can be seen to get things done."

The Bavarians are hardest on their own members of the Bonn Cabinet, especially Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle, who is currently the black sheep.

His farm policy in Brussels is said to have been to blame for CSU Euro-poll losses of well over five per cent, especially in rural areas where farmers called for a boycott of the CSU.

Yet CSU leaders well know that Herr Kiechle is merely paying for mistakes made by other Agriculture Ministers.

Suddenly they have begun to wonder whether it might not have been a "mean trick" of Chancellor Kohl's to offer it of all portfolios to a CSU man.

They also feel CSU Transport Minister Werner Dollinger has been a wash-out. In Bavaria he has gained the reputation of being responsible for branch line closures rather than opening new routes.

They are disappointed with Housing Minister Oscar Schneider for failing to make headlines, and as for Development Aid Minister Jürgen Warnke, who has ever heard anything about him?

Frustration, irritation and exasperation have made Munich a hotbed of political activity. "We are not going to allow ourselves to be led like lambs to the slaughter in the 1987 elections," says a CSU Bonn MP.

His group has conferred in rural Bavaria, and trouble with Herr Strauss was forgiven and forgotten. Their sole wish was to see him as Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor in Bonn to salvage what can still be salvaged.

But no-one knows what Franz Josef Strauss himself has in mind. Theo Waigel sought to assuage fears for the future voiced by his supporters since the requiem mass by quoting Karl Barth.

"Between times you don't know what is coming," the theologian wrote. "You don't even know what ought to come."

Which brings us back to the old question: Is Herr Strauss coming or isn't he?

Nina Grunenberg

(Die Zeit, 6 July 1984)



Bereaved Bavarian Prime Mimister Franz Josef Strauss and family follow the bier at his wife's funeral in Munich (Photo: ...)

Petra Kelly: will she, won't she?



Green MPs in Bonn anxiously await Petra Kelly's decision on her political future now the party in Bavaria has turned down her application to be exempted from rotation.

That means she will have to step down in mid-term next spring to allow someone else to take over as one of the four Green MPs from Bavaria. She has asked for a few days in which to think it over.

Greens in Bonn are less worried than they have been that she might leave the party and stay in the Bundestag as an independent MP, jeopardising the Greens' full status as a parliamentary party.

Rotation of office-holders is a principle decided on by the party conference, and an extraordinary meeting of Bavarian delegates in Aschaffenburg turned down Frau Kelly's application by 120 to 80 votes.

She was well short of the 70 per cent of votes cast needed to exempt her from rotation, but the meeting was critical of mid-term rotation and expressed a widespread desire for amendment.

Peace movement spokeswoman Frau Kelly says that if she gave up her job as an MP in Bonn she would have to return to work at the EEC Commission in Brussels from which she has been given special leave.

Greens in the Bundestag feel she may either step down before mid-term or try to persuade the parliamentary party to give her a special exemption.

The parliamentary party is likely to deal with the matter at summer recess meeting on social policy for which she is due to return to Bonn.

Another Green MP, Roland Vogt, has failed in the Rhineland-Palatinate to gain exemption from rotation.

The special meeting held to discuss his application was critical of the rotation ruling in its present form and stressed that rejection of Vogt's application must not be taken as reflecting on his work in Bonn, which was appreciated.

Vogt is felt to be sure to be loyal to the party, abide by the decision and step down when the time comes.

Claus Wettermann

(Kolner Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 July 1984)

■ PRESIDENCY

Weizsäcker and quest for common denominator

Richard von Weizsäcker, 64, the new Bonn head of state, doesn't exactly represent a new generation at the top in the Federal Republic of Germany.

He is five years younger than his predecessor, Karl Carstens, or roughly the same age as Carstens was when he assumed office.

Weizsäcker is the sixth Bonn President. All grew up before the war and belonged to generations that got where they were before 1933. They included Theodor Heuss, Heinrich Lübke and Gustav Heinemann.

Since October 1982 a younger generation has held power in Bonn, having earlier come to the fore in the *Länder* and the Federal Cabinet.

Head of state remains a post for an older generation, but for at least one expectation placed in Richard von Weizsäcker as President that is unlikely to matter.

He will, many hope, succeed in persuading the young, say 20- to 30-year-olds, to develop confidence in and loyalty to the state. That is a task a 45-year-old is as unlikely to achieve as someone in his mid-60s.

There is too much dislike of a system of freedom that inevitably entails an element of order. There is too much disappointment over promises of security that haven't been redeemed.

Yet even among people in this age group, who may roughly be equated with the voter potential of the Greens and "Alternatives," there are no more objections to Weizsäcker personally than to anyone else of his age.

There are not even disapproving remarks about him having served in the Wehrmacht during the war, ending it as a captain.

Even the Alternative List in Berlin, where he was Governing Mayor for three years, viewed him with a mixture of obligatory mistrust and instinctive goodwill.

He has invariably been regarded as somehow above day-to-day politics and the criticism it so often encounters in Germany, arguably due to his origins.

His family may not have been members of the nobility for generations, but the von Weizsäckers have been prominent academics and civil servants for four generations. All have been talented and there are no signs of wear and tear.

His great-grandfather was a professor of theology and vice-chancellor at Tübingen University. His grandfather was Prime Minister of Württemberg; it was he who was raised to the hereditary nobility in 1916.

His father, Ernst von Weizsäcker, was a diplomat. His uncle Victor was a well-known professor of medicine in his day, and a man given to pondering over his profession and the doctor-patient relationship.

His elder brother Carl Friedrich, the physicist and philosopher, was approached by the SPD in 1979 and asked to stand for President.

He declined because the idea was devious and also, it seems reasonable to assume, because it stood little chance of succeeding.

What the SPD had in mind was to upset the safe majority held by the CDU/CSU in the electoral college by nominating a non-partisan professor.

Richard von Weizsäcker grew up as a diplomat's son, which meant frequent changes of home, although home life was temptingly comfortable (a temptation it was as well not to grow too accustomed to).

His father served in Berne and Copenhagen, returning periodically to Berlin, where the young Weizsäcker passed his *Abitur*, or university entrance exam, in 1937.

He did so early and went on to study in Oxford and Grenoble, which was unusual in those days. His father's connections will doubtless have helped.

In 1938 he was called up for military service, followed by active service in the Second World War, which was why he didn't go back to university until the 1945-46 winter semester.

He read law, interrupting his studies for a while to help with the defence of his father, who was prosecuted by the Americans for his role as a state secretary at the Reich Foreign Office from 1938.

After his law degree and PhD, he worked in the steel industry, banking and pharmaceuticals, quickly rising to senior positions.

But in 1966 he quit his last managerial job for a career in politics. He was also a senior lay churchman as a member and chairman of the council of the Protestant Church synod.

He joined the CDU in 1954, which was early or late, depending on one's point of view.

He is known to have said in retrospect that his decision to join the Christian Democrats was an expression of the slightly resigning end to his quest for a political platform that was both independent and would ensure him of a hearing.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The CDU as a mass party is indeed many things to many men, yet Weizsäcker has never been associated with any particular wing. His name has been equated with neither the economics council nor the social committees, neither the right nor the left wing of the party.

He in a way gave expression to the CDU's unattainable ideal as a party claiming to represent the people as a whole, especially as a churchman and custodian of the Christianity in Christian Democracy.

A party such as the CDU needs people of his kind (although it cannot do with too many of them). He has always seemed well suited for the post of head of state.

He didn't enter practical politics until late in life. He was nearly 50 when he first became a Bonn MP in 1969.

His last job in industry was in the Rhineland-Palatinate where he made the acquaintance of Helmut Kohl, who had just taken over as Prime Minister and was preparing for a career in Bonn.

As an Opposition MP Weizsäcker benefited from being conciliatory and striking a note of intellectual distinction.

He wasn't easy to pigeonhole when he addressed the Bundestag, and he even commanded the government's attention with his surprise effect and his intellectual touch.

An Opposition party needs speakers of his kind, but it can't afford too many of them, otherwise it will overdo the cordiality and courtesy.

His attitude toward the Ostpolitik pursued by the SPD-FDP so energetically and, at times, carelessly was both critical and conciliatory.

He absorbed the energy and criticised the carelessness, thereby avoiding giving the impression that his party was totally opposed to a policy about which a majority of Germans were clearly enthusiastic.

In his years as a Bonn MP Weizsäcker faced no opposition as he rose to all but the top, becoming a deputy leader of the parliamentary party and a member of the CDU presidium.

But he persistently laid claim to such distinctions and was keenly aware of his worth. Without express mention needing to be made of the fact it was clear to the Party leadership that the only way to make sure of Weizsäcker's services was to appoint him to posts others spent years working hard for.

His first real challenge came in 1979 when elections were due to be held in Berlin, where the Social Democrats were in the doldrums and looked like losing control.

What the Christian Democrats needed was a candidate for mayor who was a conciliatory figure and not a divisive personality. Weizsäcker agreed to stand.

The result was disappointing. In the March 1979 Berlin elections the CDU polled a mere 44.4 per cent, with the Social and Free Democrats just scraping home with 50.8 per cent between them.

But the SPD-FDP coalition never really got going. Fresh elections were called. Weizsäcker had remained a Bonn MP but was now persuaded to commit himself wholly to Berlin.

In March 1981 he was elected leader of the West Berlin CDU and resigned as deputy speaker of the Bundestag. In May 1981 the CDU polled 48 per cent, or substantially more than the SPD and FDP, who managed to poll only 43.9 per cent between them.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD mayor, resigned and handed over to Weizsäcker, who headed a minority government supported by several FDP councillors.

In March 1983 the loose ties between the Christian and Free Democrats were consolidated and coalition terms negotiated in the city.

In August 1983 Weizsäcker's name was first mentioned in connection with the Presidential elections that were due to be held last May.

He was so non-committal on the subject that it was clear he was keen. In February he stepped down as Governing Mayor of Berlin. In May he was elected by 832 out of 1,028 votes cast in the electoral college to succeed Karl Carstens.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, Weizsäcker's opponent in the 1981 Berlin elections and now SPD Shadow Chancellor in Bonn, called on Social Democrats to vote for Weizsäcker as President.

In his desire to become head of state he was able to rely on several qualities that seemed to predestine him for the part. He cut an impressive figure. His credentials were impeccable. He had an air of detachment.

He conveyed an impression of self-evident superiority that gave rise to little or no insult because it seemed so very natural.

He also spoke in a manner that made people stop and think rather than take sides. Weizsäcker has never been regarded as a firmly committed party man.

That was why he was so clearly realised by the Christian Democrats to be the right man for the job of President that they knew objections would be pointless no matter how reluctant they were to see him return from Berlin to Bonn.

His work in Berlin during his term as mayor is generally agreed to have given the city a fresh sense of self-assurance when, by virtue of its isolation, it tends to be preoccupied with itself.

He is said not to have been particularly interested in local politics, which are obviously important in a city with a population of just under two million. But Berlin arguably needs a representative more than it needs an astute administrator.

Weizsäcker quietly set about solving the problem of squatters, one of many dubious developments in the city, doing so by degrees and so gradually as to disappoint many who had expected more of the new broom.

Some will take time to forget his pledge to the Berlin CDU conference in March 1981 that he would devote the rest of his political life to the city.

But forget it they will. His pledge will be redeemed inasmuch as the Federal President is head of state for all Germans, including the people of Berlin.

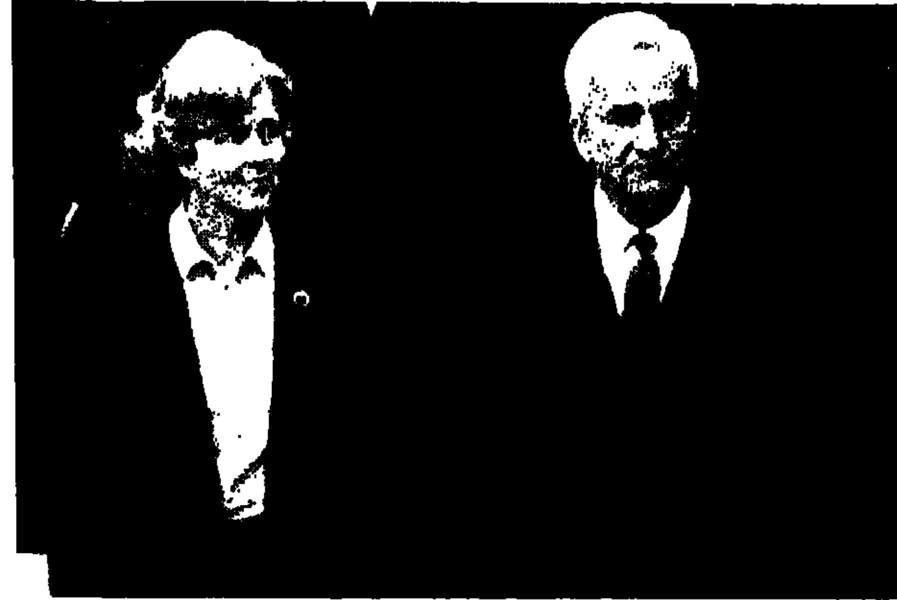
It will be a while, and require some effort by Weizsäcker, before this point is taken, but the effort should prove no difficulty to him.

He has always, even in his short spell as a politician in power, been keenly aware of the need to cater for all.

He knows that the head of state must ask questions on behalf of all but must not answer them. Answers can only ever satisfy part of the population.

Friedrich Karl Fromme

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 July 1984)



Richard von Weizsäcker and wife Marianne in the Bonn Bundestag for the swearing-in ceremony (Photo: dpa)

■ INDUSTRY

Picking up the pieces after seven-week strike in the engineering industry

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The longest and toughest industrial dispute in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany is over, but it will be a while before the mess made by the seven-week engineering workers' strike is cleared up.

The pieces can now be picked up in Baden-Württemberg, to be followed by Hesse. It will take longer to arrive at a settlement in the printing industry along lines similar to the compromise reached in iron, steel and engineering.

Yet a sigh of relief has been heard in industry, among politicians and organisations concerned. Everyone can get back to work, and there is more than enough to be done in the engineering industry.

The overall damage to the economy must now be kept as low as possible. The aim must be to work off delivery backlogs and meet deadlines as far as at all possible so as not to lag behind international competitors on delivery dates.

Seven weeks of strikes, lockouts and shutdowns are estimated by the engineering employers to have cost between DM9bn and DM10bn in lost output. The union expects to have paid between DM500m and DM600m in strike pay.

The production shortfall amounts to well over half the overall economic loss, but it isn't irreparable. Some can be recouped by working overtime. Besides, a loss in turnover is not necessarily a corresponding decline in profits.

In companies directly affected, profits are nonetheless likely to have been hit hard, not infrequently with an operating loss in the second quarter of 1984.

Indirectly the strike has hit retailers, travel agents and operators, hotels and catering and, last but not least, the exchequer.

If you aren't earning money you won't be paying income tax and social security, regardless whether or not pension funds claim the loss is no problem.

The social security system is in potentially dire financial straits and would clearly prefer economic growth to production and man-hour losses and their repercussions. The same is true of the taxman.

Parliamentary state secretary Hansjörg Häfele of the Bonn Finance Ministry says no new plans have yet been drawn up for the 1985 budget and medium-term financial planning, to be submitted to the Cabinet before the summer recess.

But since economic growth has declined dramatically in the second quarter of 1984 one is bound to wonder whether it marks the beginning of a fresh recession or the growth target of 2.5 per cent this year can still be achieved.

Dr Häfele says the target is now very much in doubt although the terms negotiated do not, at first glance, appear to leave the country much at a disadvantage with regard to international competition.

The settlement proposed by arbitrator Georg Leber, the former general secretary of the building workers' union and SPD Defence Minister under Helmut Schmidt, is a flexible 38.5-hour working week ranging from 37 to 40 hours as individually negotiated.

The strike will cost the exchequer tax losses and the Federal Labour Office in Nuremberg extra expenditure in unemployment benefit and the like.

How will investors and other countries respond to the Leber Plan? Dr Häfele feels this is the crucial question, but he can't answer it.

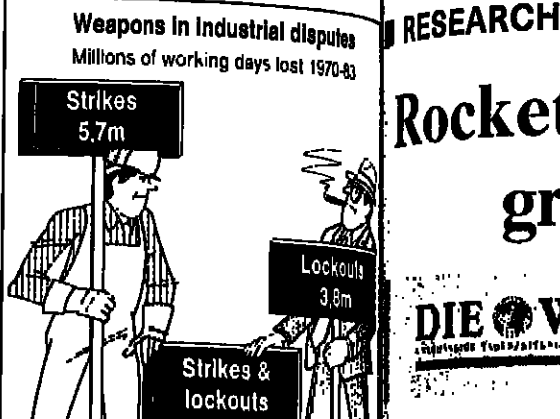
Otto Schlecht, his civil service counterpart at the Economic Affairs Ministry, feels the groundwork for further recovery is still good, but GNP growth rate in the second half of 1984 will have to be five per cent if 2.5 per cent is to be averaged over the year.

Once the strike is over the outlook will still be good, Schlecht says. A number of wage agreements have been in keeping with what the economy can withstand. Prices are stable, the current account is in the black and earnings on capital investment compare more healthily than for some time with capital market interest rates.

Public sector finances having been consolidated, the budget can now be restructured to boost government investment.

World trade has recovered and is growing at roughly seven per cent, providing German exporters with an opportunity of boosting turnover by at least the same percentage.

While admitting that demand in the construction industry has declined, Herr Schlecht is hopeful that an appeal to local authorities will result in more public works and roadbuilding contracts being put out to tender, thereby stemming the tide.



Industry in Baden-Württemberg first and hardest hit by the engineering strike, reckons the six-week strike has cost 7.5 per cent of annual output in capital goods.

Not all firms were directly affected by strike action, but others, and not just in engineering, were indirectly affected by supply shortages and the like.

Shortfall in the engineering industry is expected to amount to about eight per cent of turnover, wiping out the 3 to 1½ per cent growth rate envisaged this year.

So growth in Baden-Württemberg will depend almost entirely on performance in the second half of 1984.

Capacity not having been fully utilised before the strike, the overall outlook is good. But not for the motor industry and its suppliers.

They can't hope to repeat their fine showing last spring, while in many sectors, such as the retail trades, lost turnover cannot be recouped. Purchases people postponed may be shelved for good.

Retailers of consumer durables say business is bad. Grocers say only discount stock and special offers have sold well, as in the worst days of the recession.

Turnover in clothing and footwear has been abysmal, but views differ on whether the strike or the bad weather is to blame.

In exports, which in Baden-Württemberg make up a third of industrial turnover, manufacturers are worried about the harm their reputation may have suffered.

"The Japanese," says the German Mechanical Engineering and Plant Construction Association, "are spreading bad news about German industry. The image of German punctuality and strict adherence to terms of contract has taken a knock."

Asked whether they have fallen behind schedule, companies either play down the problem or feel they may "just about manage" by working overtime.

The terms of the engineering industry settlement have not just ended the strike and improved the prospects of economic growth, albeit delayed.

Bonn Labour Minister Norbert Blüm says they mark a new chapter in the history of wage agreements in ensuring flexibility in the reduction of hours worked.

Greater energy and imagination will be needed, he says, to strike a balance between trade union responsibility and what companies want.

Both sides failed from the outset to show sufficient flexibility this time round. "We can't afford another or a third round of wage disputes like this one," he says.

Dieter Ferber

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 30 June 1984)

Continued from page 7

that a problem is to be shelved. A meeting of Franco-German experts to deal with EEC domestic problems was, paradoxically, the first victim of Fontainebleau.

Scheduled for 27 June in Strasbourg, it had to be cancelled because of the summit.

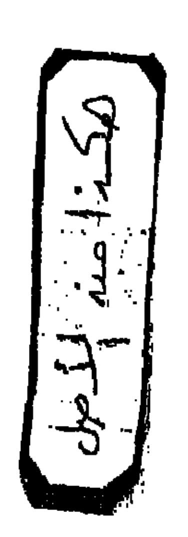
Commission experts in Brussels and parliamentarians in Strasbourg have for years known why there has been no progress in the EEC domestic market.

Either the bureaucrats have dragged their feet or the short-term interests of finance ministers or the desire of interior ministers to maintain police controls has prevailed.

More committees are not needed. Political direction is required. If controls on persons at frontiers are not relaxed, truckers cannot hope for much.

Eberhard Wisdorff

(Handelsblatt, 4 July 1984)



■ RESEARCH

Rocket pioneer Hermann Oberth, 90, the grand old man of space research

DIE WELT

Sixty-one years ago a Munich publisher was mailed a manuscript entitled Rockets to Planetary Space. It was written by a young man named Hermann Oberth.

This book, turned down by Heidelberg University as a PhD thesis, was to lay the groundwork for modern missile technology.

The Munich publisher disregarded Heidelberg's decision and decided to bank on the future. The book was published but this foresight was poorly rewarded. Sales were not spectacular.

Thirty-nine years later the interplanetary robot Mariner 2 passed Venus after 109 days in space. Its payload of metal and electronics relayed the first measurements taken from near a planet other than our own.

The date was 14 December 1962. Hermann Oberth's dream of a rocket mission to the planets had finally come true.

Every man-made object that is now airborne between the Earth and the Moon bears the hallmark of Hermann Oberth, 90, in one way or another.

Sixty-one years ago, when Lindbergh was yet to fly across the Atlantic, Oberth foresaw virtually everything that has gone into the technology of rockets from the V 2 and Saturn to the space shuttle.

In his book he aimed to prove that space travel was possible. He went on to prove it in practice, not just on paper.

Yet he is no more than only begetter of space travel than Edward Teller was the only begetter of the hydrogen bomb. The children of modern technology have many sires.

Hermann Oberth has always been a major prophet of space travel. As a physicist he worked out theories and formulas for practical use without ever being a leading practitioner.

In rocket theory he was a virtuoso of the multi-stage principle, of fuels, of oxygen carriers, of regenerative cooling, of gyroscopes, of servo engines and much, much more.

He forecast that the first lunar landing would be by means of a lunar craft that would not return to Earth.

He forecast an artificial heavenly body perched seemingly stationary at an altitude of 36,000km and relaying communications such as live TV from the Los Angeles Olympics.

Not everything he anticipated has happened exactly as he foresaw it, but by and large he has been a prophet who seldom got it wrong.

Geostationary satellites, which in effect are radio and TV transmitters towering 36,000km into the sky and orbiting the Earth once every 24 hours, have really existed for over 20 years.

In the late 1950s he returned to Germany tired out after several years spent working with Nasa's Wernher von Braun and his team. That long ago he wrote:

"Then we will build from lunar material a base orbiting the Earth so as to perch at a constant spot above the equator.

"Postal privacy will be ensured, yet telephone calls to America will be no more expensive than a call today over a distance of 40km."

How right he was! For years Oberth's satellites have been used to phone Europe from America for a few cents. Oddly enough, it costs more to phone America from Europe.

But Oberth took good care not to forecast trends in telecom charges made by the German Bundespost.

The lunar landing did not exactly take place as he expected. It didn't begin with the so-called earth rendezvous technique of assembling a launching base from a terrestrial orbit as advocated by both Oberth and von Braun, his pupil.

The lunar mission used the moon rendezvous technique devised off the cuff, as it were, by John Houbolt, an American engineer.

Braun, who hired Professor Oberth under an assumed name, Fritz Hann, at Peenemünde, the German rocket base, during the Second World War, never really got over this defeat.

Now Oberth, who hails from Transylvania, is 90, another revolution he forecast is in the offing: weather manipulation by means of gigantic mirrors in outer space.

Space mirrors made of thin metal could be made of lunar material too, Oberth also wrote in the late 1950s. They would be up to 30km in diameter and none too expensive.

The light reflected from one facet of the mirror, aimed at a terrestrial city would make electric lighting unnecessary.

Light reflected from several facets, when beamed at an iceberg, would melt it. The technique could be used to keep Arctic ports ice-free in summer and winter.

The climate in northern countries could be improved to such an extent that areas hundreds of kilometres north of the present line could be made habitable.

This forecast has yet to come true, but it no doubt will.

Adalbert Bärwolf

(Die Welt, 23 June 1984)



Hermann Oberth (Photo: Interpress)

Bonn orders new research ship from Lübeck yard

Bonn is determined to maintain the high standards of German oceanology and has earmarked funds for the building of a new research vessel, *Meteor II*, says Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber.

In recommending the budget committee to approve allocations for the ship, the Federal government has acted on the urgent advice of the DFG, or Scientific Research Association.

The new *Meteor* is to be built at the Schlichting yard, Lübeck, in 1986 for DM99m. It will cost an estimated DM6m a year to run.

Running costs will be shared by the Scientific Research Association (70 per cent) and the Bonn Ministry of Research and Technology (30 per cent).

There is no lack of new research projects for the floating laboratory. Its programme of research missions is fully booked until well into the 1990s.

German ocean research deals mainly with the European shelf seas, the North Atlantic, including sub-tropical waters in coastal and equatorial regions, and the polar fronts and Antarctic.

The new vessel is designed to meet the requirements of various scientific disciplines such as oceanography, marine biology, marine chemistry, atmospheric chemistry, meteorology, geophysics and geology.

The *Meteor II* will be 92 metres (302ft) long and be powered by 3,500kw diesel electric engines that take her to a cruising speed of 14 knots. Her range will be 10,000 nautical miles.

The ship is designed for a crew of 32 and a complement of 28 scientists. The latest in technical equipment is envisaged, including an integrated navigation system that ascertains, indicates and records with maximum accuracy the ship's position, course and speed.

Automatic equipment needing no manning is to be incorporated, as are new ideas to boost propulsion such as a second propeller running freely in front of the first and saving about 10 per cent in energy.

The use of a rescue satellite on board the ship is also being considered.

The present vessel, built in 1962-63, is outdated, and not just because of developments in scientific equipment and techniques used on board. Even if it was overhauled and modernised it would still not come up to scratch.

For stabilisation the fuel in its tanks floats on ballast water. The resulting pollution when bilges are pumped out is no longer acceptable.

Ministry officials say a complete overhaul of the present *Meteor* taking all scientific requirements into account would cost about DM70m.

So the present vessel, run by the German Hydrographic Institute, Hamburg, will probably set sail on its last mission in October 1985.

This final mission, its 69th, will take it to the deep waters off the Iberian coast for experiments in deep-sea biology. Its contract with the DFG expires at the end of next year.

Dieter Thierbach

(Die Welt, 27 June 1984)

Life due to a quirk of matter, Dortmund scientist says

We probably owe the origin of heaven and earth, and the existence of mankind, to a physical irregularity, experts at an international conference in Westphalia claim.

When the universe began with the "big bang" 15 or 20 billion years ago, matter and anti-matter existed in equal quantity, physicists imagine. Yet anti-matter seems not to exist in the universe today.

"We simply don't know what happened to it," says Dortmund physicist Professor Konrad Kleinknecht, scientific director of the international congress on neutrino and astrophysics at Schloss Nordkirchen.

"There really is no evidence whatever of the existence of anti-matter anywhere among an estimated hundred billion galaxies in the universe."

If matter exists, its counterpart anti-matter ought also to exist. Somewhere in the universe there ought to be a kind of destructive radiation such as occurs when electrons clash with positrons.

The Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov, now in domestic exile in Gorki, was one of the first scientists to suggest a possible explanation.

He said a breach of the symmetry of matter and anti-matter accounted for the existence of galaxies, stars, planets such as Earth, and man, flora and fauna.

Astrophysicists today tend to feel anti-matter doesn't exist anywhere in the universe. "There is probably only a billionth of the matter that existed when the big bang occurred," Professor Kleinknecht says.

Matter and anti-matter did not cancel each other out and were not converted into radiation because of irregularities in the density of matter and thus, in the final analysis, by sheer coincidence.

Astrophysicists thus assumed there to have been billions of times more matter when the universe began, and because of an anomaly that has yet to be fully explained, only a fraction has survived as our perceptible, visible world.

"This remnant includes us," the Dortmund physicist says.

Recent research has shown that cosmic background radiation, which survives as the "fingerprint" of the big bang, is much more evenly distributed than previously assumed.

It may thus be inferred that matter was fairly evenly distributed when the big bang took place. Minor irregularities led, under the influence of gravity, to the formation of lumps of mass that are now galaxies.

This process can be fairly exactly reconstructed with the aid of Cray 1, the world's fastest computer.

Klaus Dullibor

(Nordwest Zeitung, 22 June 1984)

■ FLASHBACK

Colonialism in Africa — the black man's burden

A century ago Germany joined the colonial powers in carving up what was left of Africa at the Berlin conference on the Congo. A conference has been held in Hanover to mark the centenary.

Anniversaries are increasingly popular in a world that has come to feel insecure about the present, let alone the future.

The past is easier to follow and somehow safer and more reassuring, even if we end up by tearing it apart, which is in any case very much in keeping with a gloomy present.

Germany was late in joining the ranks of colonial powers and did so mainly in Africa, so it is fitting that the centenary conference in Hanover dealt with A Century of Intervention in Africa.

Held by German specialists in African studies, it concentrated on two points that can be inferred from the title.

First, the colonial era is by no means over. Second, African studies sets out to be a political subject.

The association that organised the Hanover conference was founded in 1970 with the express aim of combining university research and political objectives, but members have grown disheartened over the years. Little attention is paid to resolutions.

African studies today cannot be conducted along the lines of colonial studies of old, which was why many delegates in Hanover were Africans. There was no mistaking their call for African history to be told from an African viewpoint.

Brigitte Lau, an archivist from Windhoek, met with what for her was a surprising, virtually hostile reaction to her paper on the work of merchants and missionaries as the precursors of colonial subjection in South-West Africa.

That, she was told, was merely the activity of Europeans based on European source material and not the history of Africans in Africa. Why hadn't she taken Namibian oral tradition into consideration?

That wasn't the only occasion on which European speakers were accused of a Eurocentric viewpoint. It is bound to have come as a surprise for many, since no-one felt he was in any way defending colonialism.

No-one would deny nowadays that the colonial penetration of Africa was based very much on European self-interest no matter how much emphasis was placed on philanthropy and in spite of Europeans themselves being convinced of their altruism.

The missionaries, who arrived in Africa in growing numbers from 1815 on, paved the way for colonisation and later, after the Europeans had carved up the continent, were responsible for most of the education needed to gear the African way of life to colonialists' needs.



German missionary and converts in pre-World War I Tanganyika: the benevolent patriarch (Photo: Ul-

The education of Africans was aimed at four objectives:

- Converting the natives to Christianity;
- Civilising them, which could mean either Europeanising them or educating them to be obedient while retaining their old way of life;
- Training a local elite to run the economy and administration, and
- Boosting productivity in the interest of the colonial masters.

What that meant was, first and foremost, neglecting traditional subsistence farming and concentrating on plantation work to meet export demand in Europe. Single-crop economies in many African countries are a relic of those days.

Albert Wirz of Zurich University noted that intervention had begun long before 1884 and come in the guise of philanthropy.

The abolition of the slave trade to America, largely by Britain in the first half of the 19th century, was mainly intended to include Africa in the international division of labour.

It was more profitable to put Africans to work in Africa to produce commodities, especially ground nuts and palm oil, than to ship them across the Atlantic when so many died en route.

Industrialisation had begun in Europe, and this transition meant massive intervention in African society.

A plantation economy required not only Africans trained in European ways to help run them but also coolies and plantation workers. Maintaining supplies of them was done by the erstwhile slave traders, who were at a loose end.

Slavery in Africa itself was intensified, and the colonial powers right up to 1914 failed to deal with it properly.

Slaves had earlier enjoyed a secure social position and might even be freed. They now declined in status almost to the level of slavery in America.

It must be added that the colonial powers later introduced a new version of slavery by means of the poll tax. Those who couldn't pay it had to do forced labour.

The colonial powers have long left Africa but covert colonialism remains, many Africans complain. Economic relations, they say, are unjust and unequal.

Africa is said to supply commodities and foodstuffs at steadily falling prices and to have to import industrial goods from the northern hemisphere at steadily rising prices.

This ongoing exploitation is particularly keenly apparent from the famine in the Sahel zone and in southern Africa, where it is a repercussion of the transition from farming for self-sufficiency to an export economy.

This change-over was imposed by the Europeans in the colonial era and the system is kept going by Western development aid.

Even countries in West and East Africa that have been seemingly successful in world trade, exporting ground nuts and vegetables, coffee and cocoa, now rely on food imports and suffer from famine.

Trade deficits and debts have increased. There can be no mistaking the influence of structural faults and dislocations in the wake of colonialism.

Hélène d'Almeida-Topor, of Paris, proved this point in respect of French West Africa.

The crucial factor was that profits from agricultural exports were not reinvested in farming. There was no expansion of production via modernisation of agriculture in response to the outflow of foodstuffs to Europe and the influx of labour in the cities.

Fewer and fewer farmers had less and less time to work for more and more consumers using the old methods.

Ulrich Schmoch, of Wuppertal, showed with reference to present-day Mali, which is also drought-stricken, that independence has made no difference whatever in this respect.

Cotton and ground nuts as export crops have retained priority over agricultural self-sufficiency. Export earnings are needed to meet the state's financial requirements, which have increased substantially in relation to the colonial era.

Domestic grain prices are maintained at an artificially low level to keep the politicians' urban clientele in good humour. Goods are often imported solely to meet the requirements of the new ruling class.

The farmers, who are in debt as a result of poor past harvests, bear the entire burden of this policy. It amounts, Schmoch said, to colonialism in one country.

That was a conclusion African delegates disliked, just as they found it hard to come to terms with their own share of the blame for Africa's position.

Europe, America, the IMF, the World Bank or, purely and simply, "imperialism" are felt to be to blame for everything and to leave even African politicians who are aware of the true position with no freedom of choice.

This is understandable sensitivity on the part of people who were for too long bereft of their freedom and dignity.

It will have to be accepted in Europe as a token of readiness to help bear the burden of colonialism. But it will need to be more than a token.

Ekkehard Böhm

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 26 June 1984)

■ CINEMA

Bavarian film festival blockbuster

Munich's first film festival was a considerable success, but is it entirely necessary to follow it up with a second that has all the signs of gigantomania?

The second nine-day festival includes 86 films by 175 directors from thirty countries.

The programme is made up of women's films, musicals, independent American films, new German films, children's films, science-fiction films, shorts, documentaries and experimental films. In between there were discussions every day.

Munich is certainly much in demand as a film city, for this year there is the first European Film Festival, banishing the Munich Film Festival to second place.

Along with his colleagues Peter Fleischmann, president of the European film directors society, was able to convince the European Parliament to keep its distance from a Europe-wide major film industry.

Instead, it was to support national film production for distribution within the EEC. In this way European film-makers would be able to break the all-powerful American hold on the market.

The EEC invested DM300,000 in this film festival. And at the end of it all there is to be a prize. European Commission president Gaston Thorn has donated DM10,000 in cash and DM20,000 for promotion for the best film from an EEC country.

The prize for this year's best West German actor and actress will be awarded during the festival.

This will contribute to cinema enjoyment, as the organiser Eberhard Hauff never forgets to say, beyond the local to a European level.

The outstanding aspect of this film festival was certainly the comprehensive and splendid retrospective of the work of the Italian director Lina Wertmüller.

She makes women's films not in the same stream as the Belgian Chantal Akermann, the Hungarian Marta Meszaros or Aline Issermann of France.

Ms Wertmüller came to Munich. She is 56, lives in Rome and has made twelve films.

She sketches her countrymen and women with total impartiality as if the *commedia dell'arte* was still in vogue. Wertmüller distances herself from nothing. Her films make her homeland a stage for a vast world theatre.

She holds up a distorting mirror to her audience, grotesque, absurd but also tender. Lina Wertmüller makes films about real life.

Everyone knows the people who inhabit her films, the voluptuous woman, the absolute patriarch, the he-man, the vain Frenchman (always played by the splendid Giancarlo Gianinni), tender lovers and children with their large, dark, questioning eyes.

There is a whole arsenal of characters presented in her films with unmistakable mime and gestures. This constitutes the visual wealth of these powerful films teeming with life.

But the pleasure was slightly marred for there were no sub-titles and translating did not come off. This meant that many refinements were lost.

There were also some West German newcomers at the festival, for example *Kaltes Fieber* (Cold fever) by Joseph Rusnak. The main theme of this film was euthanasia, which is so much in the news.

The second newcomer is Cornelia Schlingmann and her film was entitled *Hur und Heilig* (Strumpet and Saint). This is a rather absurd story about a man led astray.

Dietrich Schubert's film *Nieder mit den Deutschen* (Down with the Germans) is full of atmosphere of contemporary Germany but it piles cliche upon cliche, opens old wounds without accomplishing or casting light on anything.

Whilst the films are being shown it is possible to discuss them endlessly, but when the prize is given, that is the moment of truth.

Rose-Marie Borngässer

(Die Welt, 29 June 1984)

Award-winners

Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann presented the 1984 West German film awards in West Berlin.

Werner Herzog's *Wo die grünen Ameisen träumen* was awarded the "Filmband in Gold" and Hans Christian Müller's *Kehraus, Morgen in Alabama* by Norbert Kückelmann and *White Star* by Roland Klick were awarded the "Filmband in Silber".

Silvers were awarded for the full-length documentaries *Marlene* by Maximilian Schell and *Der Versuch zu leben* by Johann Feindt.

Golds were also presented to Uwe Schrader (director), Horst Buchholz, Maximilian Schell, Maria Colbin (actress), Hans Christian Müller, Gerhart Pohl and Carlo Fedier (screenplay), Jörg Schmidt-Reitwein (camera) and Helga Borsche (cutting).

For their services to West German films Heidemarie Hatheyer, Paula Wessely, Sonja Ziemann, Georg Thomalla, Georg Haentzschel, Heinz Pauck, Peter Pewas and Theo Nischwitz were presented with the "Filmband in Gold" award.

(Die Welt, 25 June 1984)

Munich director Werner Herzog, not an easy man to pigeonhole

Critics have a difficult time with Werner Herzog. He doesn't fit into any of the pigeonholes that film critics have available for everyone.

Herzog doesn't have himself associated with any political group and his films aren't a mirror of modern West Germany. He is also not a film-maker who makes a monumental film for every trend.

In 1979 he made a pilgrimage from Munich to Paris on foot and wrote *Vom Gehen im Eis* about his experiences. That is how he produces his films, unwaveringly, pig-headedly.

He has been dubbed a "mystic" because his films have their own stark symbolic language, because he shows people whose lives are in fact dreams, as in *Fitzcarraldo*, and because it is often said of Herzog that he has a religious message to proclaim.

It is no secret that he had a Roman Catholic education in his home city, Munich. He was born there, Werner H. Stipetic, on 5 September 1942.

In Munich he studied history and literature and later went to Pittsburgh, where he studied at college during the day and slaved away in a steel works at night.

After several abortive attempts at film-making he produced his first short, *Herkules*, shot in 1962, then in 1967 he produced his first full-length film, *Lebenszeichen*.

He attracted attention with his *Auch Zwerge haben klein angefangen*. Then followed *Aguirre, der Zorn Gottes* in 1972 and *Jeder für sich und Gott gegen alle* in 1974 about Kaspar Hauser.

In 1978 his re-filming of *Nosferatu* was shown at the Berlin Film Festival and in 1982 *Fitzcarraldo* was shot, until now Herzog's most opulent and most expensive film. He worked on it two years.

In comparison with the grandiose landscapes filmed in *Fitzcarraldo* and its feast of opera music his latest work *Wo die grünen Ameisen träumen* is relatively modest.



Werner Herzog

(Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

The film was shot on the Australian coast. Again he tells of people's dreams and their failure with reality. The second major theme of this film is the relationship between Man and Nature.

Herzog was awarded the "Filmband in Gold" in West Berlin by Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann for his film about the threat to humanity of a denial of spiritual powers, as is revealed in the dream mythology of the Australian Aborigines. The prize carries with it a cash award of DM400,000.

With this money West Germany's cinematic outsider will be able to make a documentary on the Mescito Indians of Nicaragua who, like the Australian Aborigines, are dying out.

Margarethe von Schwarzkopf

(Die Welt, 23 June 1984)

Few big names but fine fare in Hamburg

Hamburg's film fair for art cinemas last year had many big names but few good films. This year it was the other way round: few big names and many good films.

The eleventh film fair, in which the new films for distribution can be sorted out, was not the glutinous dish of porridge of so many festivals, where you have to forage about until you have lost your appetite before you find the plum. In five days there were 25 films to cope with, and almost every day there was at least one plum.

It was not the fault of the films that the atmosphere in the new neon bar of Hamburg's Abaton cinema where the film fair has for ages been mounted, was rosy.

The 150 art cinema owners in West Germany are worried because film-goers are not going to the films. Last year the figure dropped considerably.

"We can stand on our heads, wiggle our ears, offer the best programmes, wonderful discussions and a pleasant cinema. People just don't come any longer."

The cinema owners make jokes about the situation but the truth is that some fear for their survival.

They complain that the reason for the crisis is not so much the video film boom, but that television is showing more better-class old films.

What can prevent the cinema in West Germany, which for the past ten years has been kept alive by the art cinemas, from dying?

Perhaps someone should discover a cinema compulsion in the same vein as the theatre compulsion discovered by Karl Valentin who with pure cash saved the theatre.

There could be television-free days, but until that happens the art cinema owners must make programmes that are the best possible.

The smash hit for the art cinemas came from the USA ten years ago. It was *Harold and Maud*. This time round the best films in the film fair again came from America.

There was Robert Altmann's look back at James Dean — *Come back to the five and dime*, in which six women meet again on the 20th anniversary of Dean's death.

It is witty, profound, revealing and so typically American that Altmann ought to find his audience.

John Sayles' *Baby it's you* also comes from America. The witty, fresh college story of the love affair between a superior young lady and an Italian outsider is told with American pep.

Latitude 55 by John Juliani from Canada is a thoughtful story of a man and a woman snowed up in a hut in a snow storm. It is a story that hovers between the past and the present, both seen in a new light.

Once again there was an attempt to push not particularly well known Hungarian films. This time round director Zoltan Huszarik was introduced with two films, *Sindbad* and *Csontvary*.

The USSR was represented by a poetic, ironic film about the Revolution *A Slave of Love* by Nikita Michalkov.

The Italian contribution came from Robert Russo, *Flirt*, in which Monica Vitti plays a woman deceived in a most remarkable way. Her husband's lover exists only in his fantasy.

The West German films did not do much for the promotion of the art cinemas.

The programme included Jochen Kuhn's *Immer weiter*, Frieder Schuller's *Der Glockenkäufer* and Arend Agthe's *Flussfahrt mit Huhn*.

Erika Brenken

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 1 July 1984)

■ ENVIRONMENT

East and West agree in Munich on pollution

Top-level delegations from 31 countries, East and West, in Europe and North America spent four days in Munich at the end of June discussing environmental protection. It was one of the most important conferences of its kind ever held and ended on an unaccustomed note of unanimity.

Seldom has the Federal Republic of Germany been so showered with congratulations and fulsome praise. Delegates were constantly patting Bonn on the back for holding the Multilateral Environment Conference in the Bavarian capital.

After four days of talks the Soviet Environment Minister, Yuri A. Israel, made a few last impromptu remarks at the rostrum.

He wanted, he said, to personally thank Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann, the conference chairman, for the outstanding way in which he had handled the proceedings.

The executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, Klaus A. Sahlgren, said at the opening session there was no topic on which more uniform views were universally held than environmental protection.

Ministers who took to the microphone said time and again that the subject might help to surmount the economic and political division of the world.

This point was made by the Austrian Environment Minister, while his Greek *counterpart said environmental* protection was synonymous with human rights.

It was, the Soviet delegate said, one of the foremost social problems facing nations all over the world and, according to Herr Zimmermann, second only in importance to preserving peace.

The Bonn Interior Minister noted from the outset that Germans had a special interest in effective measures to combat atmospheric pollution, listing hazards to forests, waterways, buildings and public health.

By the end of the conference it was clear that America, Canada and all Europe view with grave dismay growing damage increasing at an alarming rate.

The repercussions, the final communiqué noted, jeopardise the natural foundations of life, lead to irreplaceable losses, especially in historic monuments, and to substantial annual economic losses.

There was an unaccustomed East-West consensus across the Iron Curtain, and some delegates felt jubilant in a modest way.

High-ranking US and Soviet officials and statesmen from all over Europe not only conferred for four days in the conference hall of the Bayerischer Hof hotel.

They also met at cocktail parties, at Bavarian lunches, to the accompaniment of clog dancers, on steamer outings on the Starnberger See and at a performance of *Le nozze di Figaro* at the historic Cuvillies-Theater.

It was an experience of "official Europe" more at ease and on good terms with itself than an incentive tour group of Bavarian travelling salesmen.

This unanimity was the true outcome of the conference, regardless of disputes over the East Bloc's aim of including a mention of disarmament in the communiqué and regardless even of the clash over percentages and deadlines.

A gigantic convoy was seen to have got under way, and no-one will find it easy to break ranks.

Environmentalists were critical of the conference. Industrialists will have had their doubts too, given that the West chose to forgo its monopoly of advanced environmental know-how.

The industrialised countries brought into play an enormous bonus in the shape of a pledge to share data and transfer technology regardless of borders. Nothing specific has yet been gained in return.

Agreements on reducing sulphur dioxide emission could even be said to have established three different categories of conference participants, the first being the Thirty Per Cent Club of 18 countries who have agreed to reduce their sulphur dioxide output by at least 30 per cent by 1993.

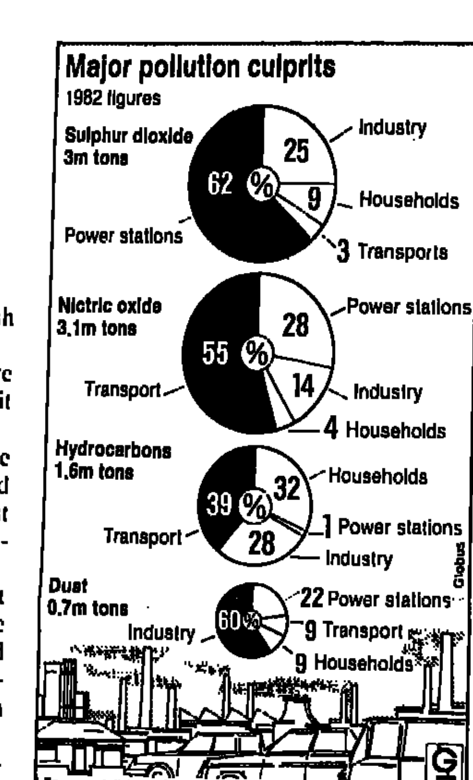
Founder-members are Canada, the Scandinavian countries, France, Germany, Holland, Austria and Switzerland. They were joined in Munich by Belgium, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein.

The Soviet Union, the Ukraine and Byelorussia, Bulgaria and the GDR undertook a less stringent commitment to reduce by 30 per cent their sulphur dioxide emission that crossed national frontiers.

Yet other countries undertook no commitments whatever. They included some who had failed to come across damage due to environmental pollution and felt their air was still pure, such as Spain, Rumania and Turkey.

Then there were those — including most smaller countries in Eastern Europe — for whom environmental protection was simply too expensive.

Last but not least, others, led by America and Britain, refused to accept that research had sufficiently identified the causes of pollution to take suitable remedial action.



A number of participants at the Munich conference felt some countries were holding open an option to press ahead with industrial expansion at the expense of the environment.

The same is true of declarations of intent to limit nitric oxide emission, which is largely emitted in car exhausts, and to introduce unleaded petrol.

But the pressure of public opinion is on the increase in countries everywhere, as is the damage to nature and the economy.

When two Greenpeace demonstrators sought to unfurl a placard proclaiming "Don't let the trees die!" this pressure was evident in the conference hall.

The Russians, who have clashed with Greenpeace activists in the Arctic, laughed. The Americans were stony-faced. Even after Munich environmental protection remains a bitter-sweet business.

Dankwart Guratzsch

(Die Welt, 29 June 1984)

Hamburg works to shut down for good

The Hamburg factory where C.H. Boehringer manufacture chemicals that produce a high concentration of dioxin, the Seveso poison, as a by-product, is to be shut down for good.

Boehringer have manufactured pesticides and weedkillers since the 1950s and have repeatedly been associated with environmental scandals.

The Hamburg works is near the Elbe marches where much of the city's fruit and vegetables are grown. Pollution has also occurred at the factory.

Farmers and smallholders, civic action groups and, increasingly, the Green-Alternative List, an ecological group on Hamburg's city council, have persistently publicised the Boehringer health hazard.

As long ago as in 1954 a number of Boehringer workers suffered from chlorine acne, which is nowadays felt to be merely the outward sign of damage to the inner organs.

An insect poison, HCH, or hexachlorcyclohexane, was identified as the culprit.

In the 1970s traces of this toxin were found in vegetables, neighbouring fields and milk from cows grazing nearby.

The situation came to a head when ground water in Boehringer test wells was found to contain traces of TCDD, or tetrachlorbenzodioxin, the Seveso poison.

Boehringer hit the headlines again last year when a search was on all over Europe for drums of dioxin-contaminated waste "mislaid" from Seveso in northern Italy.

After days of hesitation the company owned up to having dumped dioxin waste since 1957 on rubbish tips in the Rhineland-Palatinate and Lower Saxony.

Starting in 1973, the firm had gradually switched over to incinerating waste at sea.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 20 June 1984)

Ecologists disappointed with conference outcome

Allgemeine Zeitung

German ecologists, Greenpeace and the political party the Greens were disappointed by and voiced protest at the outcome of the Munich multilateral environment conference.

By the end of three days of talks a mere 14 of over 30 European and North American countries agreed to cut industrial emission of sulphur dioxide by at least 30 per cent by 1993.

Yet Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann referred to an "uncommon success that was not to be expected to this extent."

He felt it was fair to say that a majority of countries represented had decided to embark on more far-reaching measures to combat atmospheric pollution.

But he included four countries that had merely agreed to reduce by 30 per cent the amount of domestic sulphur dioxide emission that crossed the border to pollute other countries.

They were the Soviet Union, the Ukraine, Byelorussia (as UN members all members of the UN Economic Commission for Europe) and the GDR.

Sulphur dioxide and its compounds are felt to be mainly to blame for acid rain that has devastated forests and lakes.

In declaring themselves ready to join 10 Western countries in reducing sulphur dioxide emission, Russia and the GDR began by giving the Munich conference a tremendous political boost.

Yet on closer scrutiny what was felt to be a breakthrough seems unlikely to achieve much by way of specific progress.

The Soviet Environment Minister, Yuri Israel, was initially understood to have committed his country to reducing total sulphur dioxide emission by 30 per cent by 1993 (30 per cent of the 1980 figure).

But when the Soviet report was made available in writing it was found to refer merely to "transnational emission," which alters the position considerably.

GDR Environment Minister Hans Reichelt was slightly unclear in explaining what his country meant in committing itself to the 30-per-cent cut.

"The GDR," he said, "is in favour of a substantial reduction in sulphur dioxide emission and sees a 30-per-cent cut as a minimum at which to aim."

That fails to answer the question whether the GDR too was referring to sulphur dioxide "exports" or to overall output.

Other countries that failed to commit themselves at all included industrialised states such as Britain, which claims to have taken the necessary steps by way of structural realignment in industry since 1970.

Then there is the United States, which first intends to carry out further research into the origins, rate and extent of acid rain.

They were joined in Munich by Czechoslovakia and Poland, which said they simply couldn't afford to install filters in sufficient numbers.

The conference found it extremely difficult to reach agreement on the

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■ HEALTH

Telltale tongue and what it tells dentists

Dentists can see much more in the mouth than bad teeth and gums, doctors were told on a further training course in West Berlin. The oral cavity betrays many general complaints.

The condition and appearance of the tongue, gums and mucous membrane in the mouth undergo striking changes in the course of various illnesses.

A word of advice from the dentist has sent many a patient scurrying to medical specialists for treatment.

In some cases this early warning has meant the difference between life and death, members of the profession were told at the International Congress Centre in West Berlin.

Changes in the tongue, gums and mucous membrane of the mouth can have so many causes that dentists should avoid definite diagnosis, said Peter Schulz, of Cologne.

Professor Schulz, of the General Dental Council, said that striking changes in the oral cavity were not enough to warrant more than speculative diagnosis and a word of advice to the patient.

Patients should by all means be advised to consult a doctor or medical specialist in such cases, as dental checks can indeed give early warning of extremely dangerous diseases.

A smooth tongue, scarlet in colour, indicates liver failure. A pale tongue may indicate anaemia or even leukaemia.

Dr Jochen Karow, a senior surgeon at the Steglitz Clinic, West Berlin, said the first signs of blood diseases were long apparent only in the mouth.

As a result dentists were often lifesavers, he said, citing instances.

Ulcers in the mouth, for example, can be due to a blood-related immune deficiency. Chapped skin in the corner of the mouth can be due to iron deficiency.

Even members of the public know that lip sores are a symptom of herpes. Three out of four people have herpes viruses, said Professor Gerdt Knolle, of Offenbach.

Tiny blisters inside the mouth are often confused with more harmless complaints when in fact they are the first signs of herpes.

Dentists ought, he said, to pay particular attention to redness of membrane inside the mouth. It could be due to herpes and lead to shingles.

Chicken pox, measles, allergies and syphilis are heralded in much the same way, Professor Knolle said.

Long before the patient or his family doctor notices any symptom, the dentist is likely to notice telltale pimples and sores on the lips and in the mouth.

Patients may often be reluctant to accept the truth, but what they describe as a burning sensation in the mouth is often not a purely dental problem, said Dr Wolfgang Pielsticker of Tübingen University dental clinic.

It was frequently due to false teeth that were a misfit or to an allergy to the synthetic materials and chemicals used in false teeth. These were problems that could easily be remedied.

Pain was not infrequently caused by bacteria and fungus in the oral cavity or by neuralgia.

That still left a percentage of patients with seemingly inexplicable sensations of "burning" on their lips, tongues or gums. Most were women, and between 60 and 80 per cent of them women past their menopause.

Dr Pielsticker had suspected there might be some connection with hormone changes due to the menopause. So he and gynaecologists embarked on a comparative survey to probe the influence of oestrogen on mouth cells and this burning sensation.

Doses of sex hormone, they discovered, not only caused cell changes. They also often proved an effective remedy for this pain suffered mainly by older women.

As a rule, he told the congress, a temporary course of oestrogen was enough to do the trick. In a handful of particularly obstinate cases longer treatment was needed.

Dieter Dietrich

(Der Tagesspiegel, 1 July 1984)

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wording of the preamble to the final communiqué.

The Soviet Union wanted to include a link between environmental protection and disarmament. The United States was strongly opposed to any such linkage.

Herr Zimmermann as conference chairman formed an ad hoc committee consisting of chief delegates from eight countries. They succeeded in drafting an acceptable compromise.

It was agreed "that international cooperation in the wider context of environmental protection contributes toward strengthening peace and security in Europe and in the world at large."

A leading West German ecologist, Hubert Weinzierl, was particularly disappointed at the attitude taken by the US delegation which, he said, evidently felt it represented industrial interests.

"Representatives of the industrial lobby could not have more successfully torpedoed the environmental endeavours of many countries," he claimed.

Greenpeace spokesman Wolfgang Lohbeck said the Munich conference document testified to international inability and in part to cynical interest in spite of the self-evident catastrophe.

In front of the conference venue police officers cut the chains by which two demonstrators had chained themselves to a green car and carried them away to the accompaniment of catcalls.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 28 June 1984)

Nobel laureates review cancer research in Lindau

Cancer was said by specialists at this year's Lindau conference of Nobel Prize-winners to affect the body's biochemistry more deeply than has been imagined.

The disease maims cells, preventing them from carrying out their work properly in the organs or tissue concerned. The changes are caused by viruses or chemicals.

Their effect on our biochemistry was outlined by Professors Smith of Baltimore, Ochoa of Nutley, Termin of Madison and Haggins of Chicago — all Nobel laureates.

Cancer, they said, mainly affects processes that relate to the transfer of genetic information.

The genes are known to contain not only the blueprint of the entire organism but also the instructions for producing proteins, hormones and enzymes and for distinguishing between cells.

The dangerous cell changes occur in the transfer of genetic information, a process known as genetic expression. But not every upset in this department must necessarily cause cancer.

Viruses and chemical substances are equally to blame for triggering malignant growths, but instead of directly affecting the healthy cell they strike at the way in which genetic information is transferred.

Viruses can change the cell's function to make it produce enormous amounts of certain proteins, for instance.

These proteins attach traces of phosphate to other proteins in the cell, changing the function of the entire cell for good.

So malignant growth can only occur when genetic information normally present but not normally effective is activated.

The origin of cancer may be imagined at the molecular level where genetic information is contained in a long molecular string of which certain lengths are particularly susceptible to change.

The slightest change may result in the cell producing a different protein, thereby preventing the metabolism from working in the normal manner.

The gene that is to blame for this change is known as an oncogen, its precursor as proto-oncogen. Over 25 different oncogens have been isolated from tumour cells, but not all malignant cells contain oncogens.

The change in genetic information is triggered by high-energy radiation from chemical substances known as carcinogens, viruses that find their way into cells, bringing their own genetic material with them.

Genetic defects can also occur as a result of spatial changes. This at least is how the first step leading to cancer could happen, and it can occur in practically any body cell.

The cancer-causing change can occur in cells in the eye or the lung, the stomach or the female breast. The mechanism, to judge by our present level of knowledge, is always the same.

That alone doesn't by any means solve the problem of how cancer is caused, however. The process is much more complicated and consists, the Nobel laureates said in Lindau, of many individual steps.

As a rule a single oncogen cannot cause cancer. It takes at least two, and preferably from different groups, to trigger malignant growths.

Molecular biologists and cancer research scientists have in recent years put together a host of information that helps to explain the changes that eventually trigger malignant growth.

Many more aspects still await an explanation, but maybe it will be found in the years ahead.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Mannheimer Morgen, 29 June 1984)

■ MIGRANT WORKERS

Why not dual nationality for the young?

A system of dual citizenship for young foreigners has been proposed as a way round objections to repatriation legislation in West Germany.

Under the laws, certain groups of workers are eligible for a lump sum payment if they return to their native country.

A public meeting in Bremen between politicians and members of various foreign communities heard wide-ranging criticism of what one speaker called a "price on a person's head".

One of the main fears is that Turkish children, for example, who have been born and brought up in West Germany will be forced to return to Turkey simply because their parents and the law demand it. Repatriation grants are only payable when entire families return.

One Turkish speaker mentioned cases where children had to be sedated by their parents to get them to the airport.

Liselotte Funcke, who handles issues involving aliens for the government, was one of a group including trade unionists, church spokesmen, foreign worker advisers and others who proposed that young repatriated people could be given the chance to return to Germany.

But they thought that it would be even better if, after a certain period in this country, young foreigners received dual nationality.

Among those at the two-day meeting were politicians from the SPD, CDU and the Greens.

Several hundred Turks, Greeks, Italians, Yugoslavs, Spaniards and Tunisians crowded into the Bremen Assembly buildings for the two-day meeting.

The politicians listened to them, questioned them and spoke themselves.

It emerged that other big problems faced by foreigners include:

- Not being able to bring children over the age of six into Germany;
- civil rights;
- the arbitrary nature of many decisions by civil servants;
- antagonism in general.

A representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security heard aliens' policies described as "cynical" and "showing signs of despising people".

For two days the speeches were full of concern, concern at being extradited without grounds, concern about not being able to bring into the country children older than six, concern over rights, the arbitrariness of public officials, unfathomable discretionary decisions, antagonism against foreigners, and the anxiety that Turkish children born and brought up in West Germany must return to Turkey because the law or their parents demand this.

West Germans also gave disturbing examples of the effects of the rigorous legislation that had extensive unsettling influences.

Payment is only to be made when a whole family returns to Turkey. Not a penny is paid otherwise.

Most of the older children baulk at going home. West Germany is home to them. The girls certainly want to remain here.

A social worker reported that more girls are running away for fear of being forced to return to Turkey, "perhaps one day to reappear as prostitutes."

She reported an increase in suicides and emotional breakdowns.

A Turkish adviser spoke of "the terror that reigned in the families of my countrymen," and of parents who could only get their children to the airport after having administered sedatives to them.

Frau Funcke, trade unionists, church spokesmen, advisers to foreign workers, politicians and others proposed that young repatriated people who "did not feel right" should have the chance to return to live in West Germany.

Even better, they said, would be to give young foreigners after a certain period dual nationality.

A trade unionist said that there was no longer any solidarity between West German and foreign workers.

Antagonism towards foreign workers was on the increase. Some managements applied refined pressure on foreign workers, first to make them insecure and then to get rid of them.

Mannesmann in Duisburg, for instance, suddenly made language tests compulsory for foreign workers, and then spoke of redundancy plans.

The trade unionist said that in panic many were driven to ask for repatriation. "Nine hundred families have fled from Duisburg." This is no isolated case.

There was ever present in Bremen a sense of shock at the intensified application of aliens legislation.

The Labour and Social Security Ministry man said that matters were being considered but that there were no definite proposals as yet.

But he confirmed that there would be no change in the ruling that children over six could not be brought into the country.

The spokesman from Bonn came up against any number of problems. The foreigners wanted a residence permit after five years and a legal ruling concerning their insurance payments when repatriated — until now it was stipulated that the employers' share must remain in the Federal Republic.

A Turk produced some sums. He said that if 20,000 workers returned to Turkey about one billion marks would remain in West German pensions funds.

They wanted to be assured that collecting social benefits was not automatically grounds for deportation.

One put it this way: "We want the right to rights."

Lilo Weinsheimer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 7 June 1984)

Turkish teenagers face hostility in Duisburg

Young Turkish people living in West Germany say Germans do not want to have anything to do with them.

It is not easy for young Turks either here or at home in Turkey. Their hopes for training are limited and there are few jobs here or in Turkey.

The hard line of the West German policy towards particularly hits young Turks.

There are 47,000 Turks in Duisburg. The university there has made a study of the social conditions of the young ones and what they do in their spare time. Head of the study is sociologist Faruk Sen.

He questioned 400 Turks between the ages of 16 and 19, who recently had come to Duisburg and who had taken part in the arrangements made to prepare them for a job in this country and to integrate young foreigners into West German society.

The preparation for a job is a year-long course involving 15,000 foreigners, 97 per cent young Turks, who are given 20 weeks training in German and 16 weeks practical instruction in a workshop.

The survey showed that the young Turks are no different from other foreigners. They have realised how important it is to have basic training for a job.

For most this was why they came to Germany.

Favourite courses are those for motor mechanics, hairdressers, engineers, electrical workers, builders and carpenters.

The survey showed that 34 per cent of the Turks wanted to save to buy a car.

Although almost all of those questioned had contacts with young Germans of similar age, in their leisure time they kept to themselves. This might be because the young Turks were not encouraged to mix, so that they do not get to know those of their own age.

Another reason could be their enthusiasm for joining a society of one kind or another. In the survey 32 per cent were members of a political association and 18 per cent members of a religious organisation.

If young Turks in West Germany had the vote 78 per cent would vote. Which party would they vote for? Despite widely held views that they would opt for extreme parties this is not so.

Of those questioned 66 per cent said that they would vote for the SPD, ...teen per cent for the Greens, ... per cent for the CDU/CSU and ... per cent for the FDP.

Forty-four per cent believed ... West German political parties ... concerned with foreigners' problems, although just as many thought the opposite.

Generally speaking the young Turks did not regret having come to West Germany, although most of them could not say how long they intended to stay here. Only ten per cent wanted to go back to Turkey as soon as possible

DIE ZEIT

and twelve per cent wanted to stay in this country for ever.

They used their leisure time ... much as do West Germans of the same age: 28 per cent read books, 26 per cent engaged in sport and 24 per cent watched television.

Almost all of them watched the Turkish programme on the second television channel and most of them listened to the Turkish broadcasts on the W... radio station as well as "The Voice of Turkey".

Ninety-six per cent of them read a Turkish newspaper, most popular being the conservative-liberal *Hürriyet* and the right-wing *Tercuman*.

A reason why only 14 per cent of the Turks read leftish-liberal or liberal newspapers could be that they are not so easily available at newspaper stands.

The main fact to emerge from the Duisburg study is that young Turks are neither more stupid, more lazy or more reactionary than young West Germans.

Claudia Hamm...

(Die Zeit, 8 June 1984)

Cartoon look at life in Germany

Turkish artist Oguz Peker has revealed what foreigners, particularly Turks, have discovered about Germans: they are intolerant, narrow-minded and some are envious.

This revelation emerges from an exhibition of Peker's works in Gummersbach. In one of his drawings a small man with a dark, drooping moustache with a hammer and wearing blue overalls cranes his neck to see a German a step above him.

The German is enthroned on a pedestal and below is the text: "Good lord, I cannot understand why we cannot live together."

In another picture there is a Turkish family, mother, father and some children, huddled on a small island around a notice "Germany". Around them there is nothing.

Peker always draws foreigners with a moustache and black hair, who are only welcomed by blond men when they bring in money.

Then a greasy banker in the picture calls out "We love you" after a departing Turkish family. A kind gentleman strokes the small boy's black hair, who is standing to attention, his rifle by his boot, saluting the West German flag.

When it is a question of money, foreigners are no longer welcome to the Germans. Then they are kicked off the sinking ship "Deutschland" with a ... in each hand, or they make the company boss angry who with a trade balance that is constantly dropping only knows one solution: "Out with foreigners!"

They feel themselves to be fourth class people who are refused a ticket at the second class ticket office, or as Negro slaves even if glancing at their footwear there are no shackles to be seen.

They are rejected. One cartoon balloon reads: "I don't know anything about foreigners but nevertheless ... with foreigners!"

They feel themselves used, no longer needed so they are tossed out, but they remain just the same.

Sometimes they lose their identity

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■ FACT AND FICTION

The Pied Piper is still piping in Hamelin

The high point of the Pied Piper festival in Hamelin was on 26 June. ...0 years ago to the day that the piper ...red 130 children out of the town, never to be seen again.

A four-kilometre (two and a half mile) parade by 4,000 people in historical costume in 143 groups put on the spectacle for an estimated 100,000 spectators.

Other German legends and fairy tales were also portrayed.

The festival began back in January and built up gradually to the climax. Those who missed the big parade are still able to see a modified performance every Sunday until 16 December.

The legend, handed on by the Brothers Grimm, has it that in 1284 a rat catcher agreed to free the city of vermin for a cash payment. He carried out his part of the bargain but was cheated of his money by the cunning councillors.

So the piper returned again on 26 June as the townspeople were in church, played his silver flute and lured the children away.

Norbert Humburg is the head of the town's Pied Piper museum. He says there are between 25 and 30 versions of what happened or what might have happened, and about a dozen can be seriously considered.

The primary source says only that in 1824 a piper in coloured clothing appeared, lured 130 children out of the city and disappeared with them. For 300 years there is no mention of rats.

The idea of rats first came to light in 1560 in a leaflet now in Humburg's museum, but who started it off no one can say.

For hundreds of years, no one in the town mentioned rats, although, as Humburg explains, it was then a centre of about 2,000 people primarily involved in milling grain. There must have been droves of rats.

But the days of the legend were also the time of the plague which, of course, was carried by rats. By the 16th century, the plague had died out, and with it any stigma about associating the town with rats. So the legend grew and rats became the key to the publicity.

In its most common forms, the legend has been translated into 28 languages around the world. Humburg even has a Japanese placard for rat poison portraying the Pied Piper.

In the meantime, various other versions have come to light. One of the most plausible is that the Piper was a recruiter for colonies further east in what is modern day Czechoslovakia, and that young people fit for work were taken rather than children.

This version relies on the work of two researchers who worked at different times together and separately from the 1930s.

Heinrich Spanuth, a Hamelin teacher, and Wolfgang Wann, a former archivist in Troppau, now in Czechoslovakia, discovered in Lüneberg in 1936 a document that philosopher Leibniz had in the 17th century hinted at the existence of. This cast much light on their investigations.

Humburg hopes to get more information in October when a congress of folk tale researchers is held in Hamelin.

Joseph Schmidt

(Kolner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 June 1984)



700 years old and still going strong: the Pied Piper strolls round present-day Hamelin and the children join in the anniversary fun (Photo: Stadt Hameln)

Why tourists aren't wild about Bonn

For many West Germans, Bonn is still an unexplored place on the map. It doesn't exactly conjure up holiday excitement among tourists.

This lack of interest is undeserved, according to a survey by the Institute for Applied Social Sciences (infas), which carried out a survey for the West German capital city. The survey reveals that tourists under-rate the place. As the capital it has an extraordinary range of cultural attractions, but a third of the West German population are not aware of what is available.

Fifty nine per cent of the population believe that Bonn has done well as the capital city, but they only rate it ninth in a list of 14 centres they would like to visit or return to for one or two days.

Twenty one per cent of the West German population has visited Bonn in the last five years on one ground or another, which puts it at sixth place out of 30 on another list.

But it has reached this level because of passing trade, people on business, for example. They don't have much time and the impression they take away is a superficial one.

So among the majority of people it doesn't count as an intellectual or cultural centre. They tend to regard it as "...able and homey".

Most people come because of the townscape and the bucolic surroundings. A mere one per cent of Bonn's visitors come for the culture. Although many are attracted because it is the seat of government, one visit is enough to disenchant those who had hoped to experience politics at first hand.

According to infas, most visitors are in general satisfied with what the city has to offer. It gives as the reason that most visitors are the better-educated.

They, the educated elite and the trend setters, put culture ahead of more worldly leisure pursuits. Or claim to do so.

Thomas Agthe

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 8 June 1984)

Georg and the dragon fight it out in Fürth im Wald

Slaughtering the dragon, *Drachenstich*, has been acted out for more than 500 years in the Bavarian town of Furth im Wald, which lies halfway between Nuremberg and Prague, close to the Czechoslovakian border.

The origins of the festival languish deep in the shadows of the past, and although the enactment of the drama has remained substantially the same over the years, there is one major difference: today the dragon is a technological monster capable of spitting technological fire and technological blood.

Furth im Wald has been preparing itself all year for the climax in August. There will be 1,100 costumed players, more than 200 horses, musical groups and floats representing 1,000 years of border history.

The festival lasts for a week and the Drachenstich is the main event. The big parade and the subsequent battle between the knight and the dragon has developed out of simple folk customs. The battle ends when the knight throws his lance down the dragon's throat.

Various scripts were used in the first half of the 20th century. Since 1952, one written by Josef Martin Bauer has been used. It portrays in gripping style the fate of the border population by encapsulating it all in one era, probably one of the worst of the Middle Ages, the time of the Hussite Wars, from 1420 to 1436.

In Bauer's version, a man describes life in a border region: "If you live by the border, you are always poor, never sure of your home, and always outlawed. And if the time is one when men treat their fellow men worse than animals treat other animals, then the dragon has his day..."

Last century, the dragon slaughter was part of the Feast of Corpus Christi procession. In many way a connection had been assumed between it and St George and the Dragon, which used to be played in many places.

In any case, more than 100 years ago the Drachenstich was removed from the church's parade. The trouble was, it had gradually become the centre point of the Corpus Christi procession, and not surprisingly the church authorities turned against it.

So in 1878, the priests and the laiety had a showdown. The Drachenstich had to leave the festival, and it has been on its own ever since.

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 22 June 1984)

Fall guy: The dragon loses again in the annual *Drachenstich* parade in Fürth im Wald, Bavaria (Photo: dpa)

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according to Peker's drawings, they are no longer Turks or Germans.

There is a tear in the middle of their faces, one side is Turkish dark and the other blond German, and a child, born in this country discovers one day: "Papa, you are a foreigner!"

Are not Peker's drawings on the relationship between Turks and West Germans on show in the Academy not just a little too destructive?

On a wall further along there is a photographic exhibition by Henry Maitek "Turkish fellow-citizens in Cologne".

Here a more positive view is presented on life in West Germany in which the graffito "Out with the Turks" does not appear.

Petra Pluwatsch

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 June 1984)